



Atty. Docket No. 8005-1004

#9 Response
TRANSLATION
PATENTS
J. McMillan
4/23/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Koichi OHTO et al. /

Confirmation No. 1071

Serial No. 09/883,370 /

GROUP 2826

Filed June 19, 2001 /

Examiner Fazli Erdem

SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD
AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING
THE SAME

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This responds to the Official Action of December 20,
2002.

Claims 1-15 are present in the application. Applicants
would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 9 is
allowable.

Claims 1-8 and 10-15 are rejected as unpatentable over
HASEGAWA et al. 6,383,907 in view of MORI et al. 6,335,570. This
rejection is respectfully traversed.

A verified translation of our Japanese priority
application is filed herewith, thereby to establish entitlement
to a priority date of June 20, 2000.

The reference to HASEGAWA et al. was applied against
each of the claims. HASEGAWA et al. has a U.S. filing date, and
hence a U.S. reference date, of September 6, 2000, which is

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OHTO et al. S.N. 09/883,370

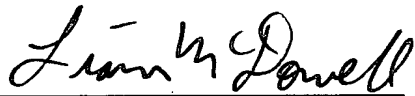
subsequent to our established priority date. Accordingly, HASEGAWA et al. is no longer available as a reference.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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April 15, 2003